



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**APRIL 29, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LIBERTY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CREDIT CARD FRAUD, FORGERY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Liberty, Mo., woman has pleaded guilty in federal court to illegally charging more than \$177,000 to her employer's credit cards and forging the business owner's name in an attempt to conceal the criminal activity.

**Becky Puett**, 43, of Liberty, waived her right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs on April 28, 2005, to a federal information that charges her with credit card fraud and forgery.

By pleading guilty, **Puett** admitted that she produced and possessed forged checks written on the bank accounts of MGMCO, a consulting company that has contracts and affiliates in Missouri and other states. **Puett** admitted that she forged the signature of MGMCO's owner on those checks in order pay credit card bills to American Express and Sprint credit card companies.

**Puett** was employed as an administrative assistant with MGMCO from August 1999 until January 2003. **Puett** was hired to assist the company's owner, whose health had diminished due to the combination of a heart attack and stroke. She had access to the owner's office, where he maintained his company records and personal financial information.

In her position, **Puett** was allowed access to two company American Express credit cards and, unknowingly to the owner, she obtained a Sprint MBNA Visa card and listed herself as an authorized cardholder and user. After obtaining the cards, **Puett** began making unauthorized purchases of personal items and services totaling approximately \$177,952.27. In order to conceal the criminal activity, **Puett** intercepted the credit card bills and issued checks payable to those credit card companies, forging the owner's signature. The total of such checks amounted to \$43,438.26, Graves said.

Under federal statutes, **Puett** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)